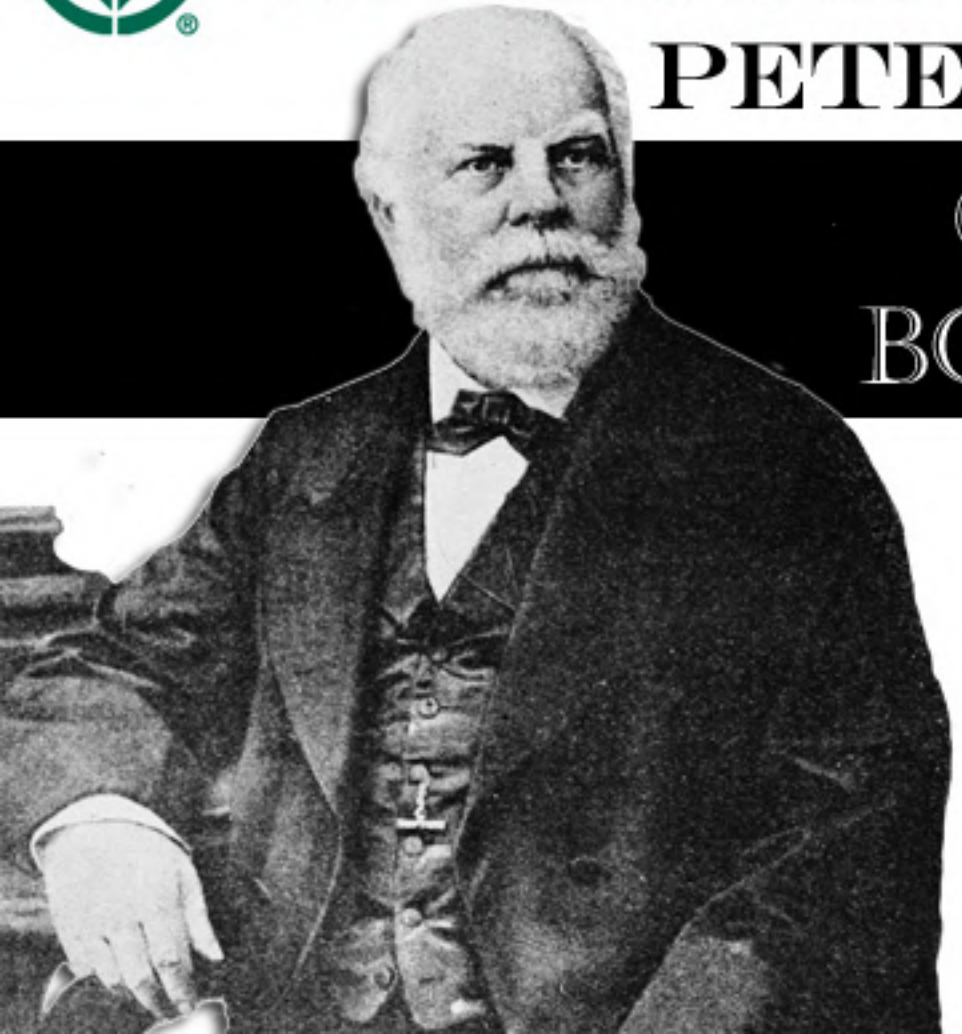
Missouri Botanical Garden

Peter H. Raven Library

George Engelmann Botanical Notebooks



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Rec'd Jan 16th 18

Dr L. Lan
Jamestown

Prof Sargent
Brookline Mass

Explains art. Sciadopitys & Taxodium

Dr L. Lan
Jamestown

Rec'd Jan 16th 18

Dear Dr. Lan, I received your last mail letter & sent you a p.c. nothing else to-day - I will at least let you hear again, how heartily I thank you for that letter - how much I appreciate your kindness! Those autobiographic reminiscences were especially charming to me - "Oaks Even Then"!! Thanks to - many thanks - for the "rough sketches", which will be valued not only as having been made by you, & under the circumstances you describe but, because they seem to be so true & will assist me as much as Michaux's plates will do.

Yes! no end to these variations & intercomplexities! one feels at times like going into rank Darwinism. These leaves of Q. aquatica do not dismay me a bit, but as I came across them I thought I ought to send them to you. No! they are diff. trees - aquatica & laurifolia! Just sent parcel of Acers & Tilias & Ulmus humilis & the same, with a few other seeds. Same, the same, the same, the

1st, locality makes but little difference nor age. 2. aquatica on the edge of swamps & in sandy land can be always recognised as the same tree, — always sparsely leaved and the leaves always large & broad above. Both the young & old trees in wet or dry land preserve all their characteristics. 2. laurifolia on edge of swamps (where indeed it is not frequently found — but I saw some yesterday) is also the same showing that it is not soil — not locality wh creates the difference in leaf & growth & size, but that they are distinct species.

Take this also into acct. I have said & still say that the leaves of aquatica cling largely through the winter — tho' it is not an evergreen (Dr. Vasey however in his Catalogue (No 289) says the leaves are hexandrical; — he is mistaken!) but, judging from what I have lately noticed there seems to be some radical difference between this oak & laurifolia. On the 31st Dec '76 I examined all the oaks about here of these two species — not a leaf of laurifolia had dropped, although there were patches on the trees here & there wh had been scorched by the cold; — but, even then the large leaves of aquatica were in many instances, brown — dead, (tho' still clinging) while on three or four trees there was hardly a leaf to be seen — they were naked. To day all the trees of lau= =rifolia I can see are still green.

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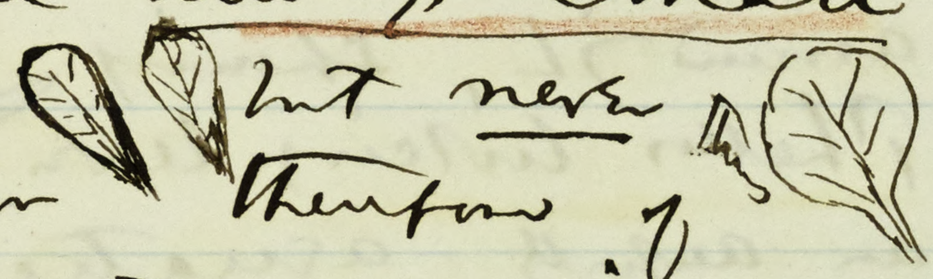
leaves not dropping yet — though they must commence soon & I dare say some are now, tho' I haven't seen either of it — whereas most of those of aquatica are becoming naked & on all of them the brown drying leaves are to be seen. Some are perfectly naked of leaves. Now although it is possible as we have seen to find rough oak of laurifolia with leaves "squinting awfully to aquatica" — yet they shall squint "in vain for me"! What do I care for their squinting when I remember that such leaves are never so narrow or tapering at the base as in aquatica & are always small. They may be thus  but never the peculiar distinction therefore of Aquatica is, that under all circumstances — on trees old & young, the leaf is large & broad above & invariably tapering to a point at the base. (I enclose a leaf of aquatica from tree on edge of swamp — all the leaves on the tree like this — you will say they "squint" to laurifolia — I say, nay, on said tree the leaves seemed mostly "star" except the lower ones — but I enclose it anyhow — verdict, you know!)

On the tree in trees (two of them) from wh came the leaves of laurifolia I sent you — the foliage is today massed & green & not dropping. Did you not see that the rubber stiffish

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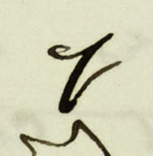
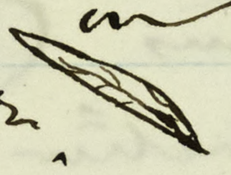
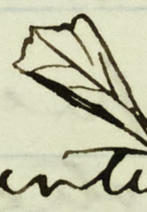
leaves lose the usual marks of the genuine lauriifolia or  ?
After a severe blow here a week or two ago I collected another panel of leaves all of them being lauriifolia — not one aquatica, as I know every tree of each in the whole place. I thought it best to collect these various forms — lobed & otherwise — squinting ones & all — stiff ones also squinting to our last hybrid but all of them (I! being judge!) — being true & genuine lauriifolia. In the piece sent you will find these stiffish leaves of lauriifolia marked 1. & in same one sh with string tied around it, showing on the same branch flatter looking leaves  & lobed  & an awfully aquatica wavy squinting one — but the last is a mere freak! All of the rest wh are unmarked are lauriifolia pieces up in the trees under large & beautiful trees of lauriifolia except ~~the contains~~ the lobed(?) ones of 2. Veins wh are from a small shaded tree & not from young shoots in the passers after a burning. If 2 Veins may squint thus towards aquatica why not lauriifolia under the peculiar conditions of last Winter?

Sinuata & along my two hybs — Sinuata with same squint as lauriifolia

Explains art. Spiki a no. 9 & 10 valvat

or 1. 2 are

Rec Jan 16 1877 (5)

I say last winter — for although you say nothing about my first imaginings thereto — (I mean in the first luxuriant crop of leaves being killed & then their successors taking & keeping their various juvenile & lobed forms!) yet I need not be surprised if that summer winter had a big hand in these things — even in making ~~that~~ or these Caulifolias spring thus towards Aquatica! We will see this year — for the winter has been steadily biting cold even in these warm latitudes. 11. contains various of shorter leaves of ~~the plant~~ young sprouts from 2 stumps of Aquatica on edge of a swamp & cut in summer I suppose. I say aquatica but I never saw the tree — I only later to be that & not laurifolia — the leaves are larger than usually seen & seemed me of some of those. Photographs one I sent you in the summer

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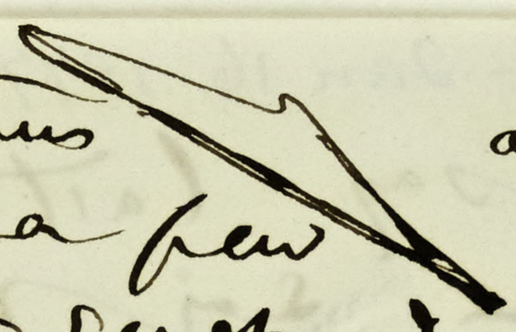
The 2 or 3 long ones thus  are from a young plant of a few inches in height — such I have already sent you. A few days ago hopping "Middleton Swamp" I went in near the "Pines" trees & found a large tree. III. contains leaves of this & one acorn cut marked also III. A Mr Jennings in Chester spending some time at Dorchester 16 miles from the city, wrote him begging him to send specs. of Chestnut oak — the letter reached him too late as he missed some good opportunities — but he sent me these marked IV.

They confuse me somewhat — some are regularly dentate & others irregularly so — a big tooth & a little one — alternating (sinuate too?) — one a tree almost crenate — some tipped spinous, will you say? or the marks of such — some smaller & squinting to acuminata, as Ell says does not grow so low down but Mickx found one not very far from Sav. — Buck's ferry I believe — & are there but the younger leaves, & "bull dozed"(!) I mean winter dozed like our here? He found no acorns & said nothing as to bark, or whether there came from 1 tree or several. That was Mickx's region — his old garden at King & Meeting St. road was as "6 mile house" I believe — about 10 from Dorchester I think. I feel I've written a stupid letter — my head & limbs aching from long exposure or was in cold. You will say this — diagnosis, Cac. scit. or "diar of tongue" or per — Eventual result, ramolissement of the brain! And I will not

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Letter from Peter Collinson
To John Bartram, - from
W. Darlington's Memoirs of
Jno Bartram & H. Marshall
p. 189 - 190.

"Feb. 13. 1753.

From my country cottage called
Ridgeway House.

"Dear John,
Being retreated here from the hurries of the town, while snow covers the ground in this alpine situation, I retired to my study, with a good fire, & found serenity & pleasure of mind in conversing with my distant friends. Thy sundry packets lay before me. As often as I peruse them I still find entertainment & much matter for speculation & reflection.

The first I laid my hands on was the well wrote dissertation on your oaks & Hickories. * * *. Thy descriptions are so exact & natural, that I am

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always delighted with reading them, but my good friend, I must im= =part thee my doubts. —
I am afraid the species are so multiplied that it will be a difficult task to distinguish them here. The difference between the Lowland White oak [Q. bicolor Willd ?] and the mountain White oak [Q. Prinus Mx ?] is purely owing to the situation* — and that cannot be determined but by Experiments. Take the acorns of each, & plant in thy garden: a few years observation will put that matter out of doubt. And the like may be in the swamp & mountain chestnut oak [Q. prinus L ?, & Q. montana Willd ?] — a difference owing to soil & situation — not sufficient to constitute two distinct species; and so of the Spanish & Swamp Spanish oak [Q. falcata & Q. palustris of Mx ?]. I know this tribe of trees sport so, in their leaves, that it is easy for them to collect specimens that shall have a great appearance of a distinct species, —. but the

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question is, — will this hold through the forest? In England we have but two species of oak, and yet, in the course of my observation I could extend them to variety of species — from the different figure of their leaves, & the shape & size of their acorns. [Any hybrid oaks observed in England? J. H. M.] —

As an account of your forest trees is a very desirable piece of knowledge here, with their properties & uses, — since the humour of cultivating them is so much indulged: — yet, when the lowland & mountain oaks grow up here together, — and no very remarkable difference — then our ingenious friend Jno: Bartram will be arraigned with want of judgment to distinguish things aright.

To prevent such impeachment of his skill, I must wish he wd revise his account again, & confirm his opinion with fair sps and acorns impartially collected, —

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"for I have a great desire to have them engraved & published. Our friend Catesby has indeed ex=
=hibited variety, but then his work is so expensive few can afford to buy it. ——

* Friend Collinson manifests a laudable desire to avoid unnecessary multipli=
=cation of species, but modern botanists generally have sus=
=tained the views of John Bartram in reference to the specific differences of the oaks here mentioned."

(Wallichamp)

Bluffton S.C.
April 1838

Recd May 22 1874
Ans — 26

Bluffton Mo
18. May 74

To Dr Engelmann —

My Dear Sir

I had expected to write at my leisure to-day — or partially so — but a villainous case of accumulation — out in the country has kept me so busy that I haven't now much time.

Let me not forget to thank you for yr 2 last of 25 Apr & 8 May wh reached me in due time — I had intended to-day to go out in the pine-land & overhaul my herbarium & note there a drawer but the incessant & inundating rains have so deluged portions of the pine-barren — that I'd wet have been but walking even had I been unengaged. Let me say however that

knowing the confusion ~~they~~
~~after~~ as to Pumilo — I
have always taken great
pains to send you only
that or what seemed varieties
of it. But of course I may
err in dealing with these
nine-land dwarfs wh are
subject to the ordeal of fire
so continually. The true Pumila
~~o that is~~ the one most common
& wh seems pretty well to hold
to its characteristics is the
same wh I sent you from
Hardtwick & wh follows the
line of roots to Charleston as
I write you. These other
varieties I have seen no
where else but here, but you
must be on your guard lest they
be young spirits of Laurifolia
or Cinerea wh that I have
lately found in the same pine-
barren — trees of 10. — 15 feet
high. However I do not
think they are for I have
endeavored to avoid mistakes

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Rec'd May 27 '94

& have been as careful as I possibly could be. The aristate one seemed very curious — it was growing in & among & with the others — the cinereous ones & it has flowered (I believe) (I can say) in its dwarf state. The leaves of all young oaks — or at any rate the dwarf oaks, wh are liable to ~~turning~~ being burnt generally show a disposition to be lobed. Indeed I believe all young oaks of every kind incline to lobe. The young ferruginous leaves of Myrtifol are as you see also awned. ~~as~~. It ~~was~~ had been my intention as I look on before to have examined the Pumilas about me carefully when ~~&~~ to flower — but I was in Chester at the time. That is indeed a most curious thing Pumila should rank with the biennials as t. the underlined rules. If I can get hold of some acorns sent away some where I must try & see this thing for myself. I did not know any thing about this.

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I certainly sent you last fall a Pumila that was almost a entirely glabrous — look again. Do you mean by my "doubtful Phellos" — the one I first sent you plucked when returning from Chester? Oh I was doubtful of whether it belonged to Phellos — Laurifolia or Aquatica? It was a stunted tree growing near a rice-field canal — saw it once since it is not Phellos — I believe it to be Laurifolia. If I could see it now I could locate it without doubt. But afterwards I sent you a lot of what I take to be the true Phellos of the swamps — very green & glabrous & flat-leaved! Do you express doubt about that — that's the only Phellos I know — this was marked ☐. The revolute young leaf then is here there the only one certain

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distinctive mark of Rumila
— as you say all of its
forms have it. That much
then is gained! — courage
my friends! — we
may get to something else.
I send pressed specimens
of Alba ⊖ — also views
— this variety is of weeping
habit — peculiarly so. (V)
also the young shoots of myrti-
folia +. Cinerea III. &
Rumila II. I wish I could
get a good printer transf of
Lyrata for you — for you
to examine the young print.
A "Pennsylvanian" a rather
Hard Quaker lad told me he
knew where one grew near his
native place. I lance his
address! — can have for him
grafts & for nothing &
specially cure the
villain — hoping
thereby to get him to
send me a specimen. Wh
he faithfully promises —

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but I haven't seen it yet! If it turns up I'll send on as I know the sight of the very first was glad to see it! Grapes! — I believe we have seen Cordifol. & Vulpin & Labrusca & Æstivalis — but remember others. There's an idea near where I once saw a certain choice var of Æstiv I believe growing — must try & see it again & send. Pardon my scribbling this hurry-graph — I will try & get the most of Myst. in a scrawl before sun-set & will write again & send things as they turn up.

Yours

Ryan

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Rec Sept 16th

Bluffton
Mo.
11. Sept 75

To
Dr Engelmann.

My Dear Sir,

I shall send you in a few days specs. of another Nyssa (?) var. which I came across to-day, and which I mistook for a Sassafras tree! It is a small straggling tree about 25 feet in height - yet bearing marks of age - and growing on a bluff near the

from the West by Mr (Sinuata?) wh I sent you last year. The tree is growing in an open place & is not crowded in any way. The bark reminds me of Cinerea.

The lower leaves are (as is usual) much larger than those above & more frequently trilobed. The upper as you will see are smaller & of dissimilar shape, but most generally lanceolate, or rather wide lanceolate, giving the tree a very peculiar appearance.

Possibly it is the

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GEORGE ENG

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same as the other hybrid sent, but I think not, — the leaves being diff^t in colour as well as shape, & besides and termination beneath like trilobata & foliata!

It is biennial, but I cld find no maturing or mature fruit to send now.

The plge will contain various spec^s of the leaves from the lowest as well as the uppermost branches of the tree, & I shall also enclose 2 spec^s (only) with large maturing fruit when

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other hybrid Simnata (?)
No others will be
sent out from these
two trees.

I trust my Wife's
health con-
-tinues good & that
all things go well
with you. We have
had a hot summer &
an unprecedented drought
wh last still continues
to the ruin of the crops.
The outlook is a gloomy
one indeed for us all!

Signs of a "September
Gale", wh indeed is to
be looked for after
such a summer!

Very truly & respy
J. H. Minchams

Rec'd April 28th
Ans May 1st

Dr Engelmann / Bluffton Mo
St Louis.

22. Apr. '76.

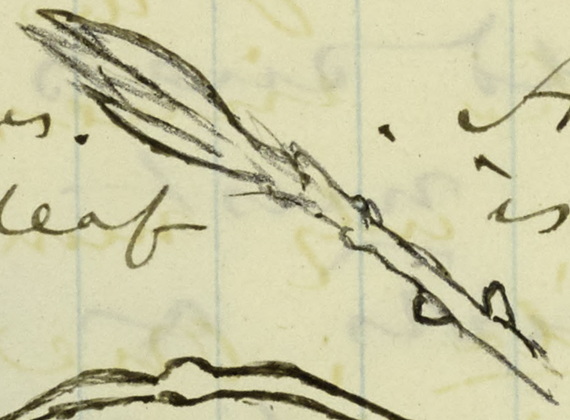
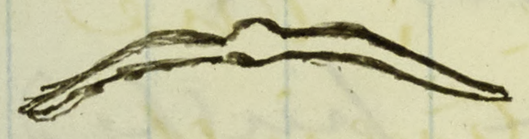
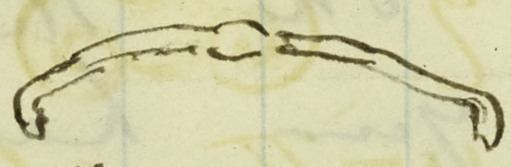
Mottle

My Dear Sir,

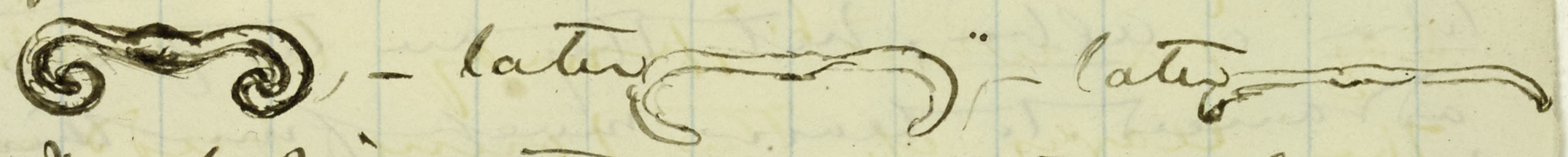
It is rather late for the examinations you wish — Especially as the cold snaps in March killed in most cases the young shoots & blooms wh had been pushed out by the warm winter.

I have however been enabled to make very good examinations to day upon either young twigs or others wh were backward, & the result I now give you.

I feel doubtful whether you shld rely on the dried specimens wh you have, as they may twist into very diff forms from what they were originally — but of this I am not sure. But I give you what I saw

and you may take what I say for what it may be worth. The leaves of the young buds of 2. laurifolia always rest compactly & closely to stem, the under surface only appearing thus.  A section therefore of a young leaf is invariably like this —  & a little later after more expansion thus . In no case have I observed them rolled in spirally. Many have been examined from diff. trees — tho' chiefly young trees. I may say the same of Acacia, tho' this oak being far advanced I only examined buds from two young trees. One of Cinnea was pretty much the same with slight tendency to the spiral  . Now in 2. Vieus Even in the youngest buds, the tips of the leaves show a tendency to stand off from the bud & not lie so closely folded as in Laurifolia. A section also gives the spiral

from like an Ionic capital —



In looking therefore at the leaves of a young bud of 2. Vineus, on acct of this recurving, one sees chiefly the upper surface of the leaf rolled over on the inner. The same thing occurs only more markedly in 2. pumila; one can generally I think distinguish the young shoots or bud of pumila from lanuginosa. Even when growing together by this, that the leaf tips of the former like vineus tend to stand off, only the leaves are invariably narrower & longer, thus . They are very tender & delicate. A section of a leaf bud gives the same Ionic spiral curving, only still more markedly . I wonder if this holds good with all the annual growing oaks? I must try & look after obtusiloba & alba to morrow & write what I see on the other side — as I must now take a pill & go to bed!

Jno 2 p.m.

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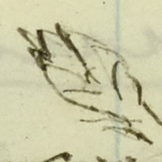
23d. Today I looked after Obtusi-
loba & alba, but they are too far
advanced to learn much from them.
However, judging from the young leaves
examined they seem to be have like
balcata & Calebai for
I believe that to be condition of the
latter from what I saw yesterday
on a young tree. One bud of Myrtifolia
was found  & that seem pretty
like the above*. I examined as you
of laurifolia to see if the midrib
above was more prominent than
below but I can't say I find
it to be the case. Please to
remember that this was too late
in the season, & that many cir-
-cumstances must in various
times at the right time might
have given diff. results. I only
but certain as to laurifolia,
rivus & pumila. In the other
case the veins were rather in
-ordinent. I sent you a letter
a few days ago as to P. Ellittii
& P. flabra enclosing a 4 leaved P.
serotina. My temporary d. [illegible]

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

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Rec'd Oct 19th

Ans Nov 2

Ans Jan 20

Bluffton

Florida Myrtifolia

S. C.

14. Oct 1878.

To W. Engelmann

My Dear Doctor,

I send with this a parcel containing oaks, — hard if anything new — but they may be of some use!

1. Q. Stellata Slab auth.

2. Q. Alba — from a single tree in old field not far from Sav. Riv. Fruit larger be=
=ducted than those about me.

3. Quercus — ? from "Buckhead" Sav. Riv. — the leaves of which I sent you before & which you suppose to be a form of Q. Ilicifolia.

4. Q. Phellos — near New Riv. Bridge — don't think I ever sent you good fruit before.

5. Q. Cinerea — good fruit, sandy pine-land. —

Sent you a certain Myosotis Capitata & Myosotis Laxa — seeming differing from Baumgartenii

Sent you also a specimen of Phlox Carolina

J. H. Mellichamp

6. Q. nigra — don't think I ever sent you fruit before — small tree 15 feet high — never found here — always on clay I believe.

7. Q. Catesbaei X Laurifolia from same tree in cove. This year the leaves are still more like Q. Catesbaei, but a casual observer would unhesitatingly place it with Q. laurifolia growing just alongside! The general aspect of the tree is nothing resembles Q. Catesbaei — the leaves only remind one of that tree. — Last winter I saw a very large tree of this variety — or hybrid — cut down some 300 yards higher up the cove — a piece of the bark of which I preserved. The bark reminds me of that of an old Q. laurifolia — and in some respects of Q. falcata wh. most people here call "red oak". The negroes who were cutting it — all said it was a "red-oak". When I showed them the leaves they were somewhat staggered — but still insisted it was a red oak!

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8. 2 stellata – the Salmons form. All of these sps sent (and I have a good many more) are from the four trees on Buzzard Isld – mouth of May River – fronting Calebogue Sound. You can refer to my letter if you still have it – it was written after I collected them there. Doubtless there may have been other trees on the Isld before it was cleared some few years back. The trees were full of fruit when I left them – and Mr Cassius Morell – cold – promises to collect a barrel of the berries for me – but if I can make the time I purpose going there myself again before Nov. The other sps sent you long ago, were from a single tree at "Sand Run" not far from this place.

9. 2 rubra? fulvata jm from a small tree in Hardeville on R.R. not found just here – collected in May or June I think.

I send good sps of Vincetoxicum scandens from same isld. for yr Herb. also Aquilegia Canad. from do – green place for the latter!

Missouri Botanical Garden
George Engelmann Papers

4985

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Also Vincetox ~~scap.~~ robustus, Sag. mictxii. Thaspium barbinode. P. pubens all of which however you have.

Please re-examine sps of the New-field Gnoloboos sent in parcel, which you supposed to be G. laevis. See Mr. Gray's card enclosed. Do not think my Mr. Wm that I place his authority, or any man's, beyond yours — but after you sent me yr. p. card from Bayfield I wrote Mr. Gray stating that I had sent you three or four fungi leaves of Gnoloboos to one of which only a single fly clung, and that judging from that you supposed it to be G. laevis. I had sent good sps to him of this New-field vine long ago in the summer — but he wrote me they came to him heated & rotting. Therefore I sent them to him again — especially as you thought it to be G. laevis & I presumed to differ with yr. diagnosis! — which I still do!

A man in New York at a place called Watkins River begs me for G. laurifolia & Baccharis ani==gnetifolia — There are one or two sps left & I may as well send them on also. Now that the cool weather has come on I trust that my E — has quite recovered from the effects of the summer heat. Very truly

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Asa Gray
Cambridge
Mass
Sept 1
1866
Gray, Asa
Letters to Engelmann

Mr. H. Bailey

Mr. Sec

28 Nov

Cinereo-falcata!

Dear Mr. Sargent

Great thing yesterday to see that 2. Cinereo falcata did not mature its fruit although I built a good hotbed for the same! The shs I sent of fruit were the largest I have yet seen — never have seen them mature! Got your letter last night — thanks! — hope to give you a better acct of that "Beech Hill"

Yes, I got the Kaempferia — letter

Mr. Sargent

Mr. Sec

Mr. H. Bailey

Nice get back.

Trees

Mr. Sargent

Mr. Sec

Mr. H. Bailey

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Blossom
S. Cal.
21. Nov 78.

Messrs.

I send you now matured fruit from D. Stellata-Stabra, s/s of yesterday from isln I sent you with letter a few weeks back. I did not collect them myself, - but have no doubt as to their genuineness. I am curious to know whether you send them the same as the one near this place, and whether you have changed yr opinion as to the Gymnoclados! -
I have plenty of the fruit of D. S. - Stabra if you need more for planting.

Yours truly
J. H. B.

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